



On The Beat

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

June 2011

Mission:

Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional healthcare that improves their health and well being.

Vision:

To be a patient-centered, integrated health care organization for Veterans providing excellent health care, research and education; an organization where people choose to work; an active community partner and a back up for national emergencies.

Values:

- Trust
- Respect
- Excellence
- Compassion
- Commitment
- Empowerment
- Continuous Improvement
- Collaboration

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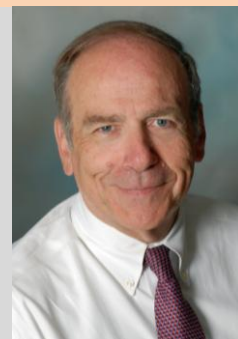
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Public Affairs Officer

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APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF STAFF

Dr. Kent Crossley has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. Dr. Crossley has worked as a practicing infectious disease specialist since the 1970's. He has held the rank of Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota since 1987 and has been an active medical educator and researcher throughout his professional career. He has authored over 130 papers and holds two US patents.

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Dr. Crossley

Dental Team Pulls Together, Saves a Life

By Ralph Heussner
Public Affairs Officer

This is the story of strangers helping strangers helping a stranger – and possibly saving a life!

In the early evening of June 16, four VA Medical Center dental staff members were bicycling around Minnehaha Park following the annual picnic to honor outgoing residents.



(L-R): Dr. Puri, Linda Borash, Gisselle Rushin and Donna Young

One of them noticed a man in the fast-moving creek, less than 50 yards from the Falls. He appeared to be in serious trouble, attempting to grab onto rocks, but slipping away. He could be heard moaning.

Giselle Rushin, a VA dental assistant, was the first to respond. She jumped off her bike, leaped over the fence by the creek, and extended a hand to help the stranger. Dental assistant Linda Borash, dental hygienist Donna Young and dentist Dr. Ipinder Puri were right behind her. They formed a human chain and began to pull together.

But it wasn't enough to extract the man from the water.

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(L-R): Montel Williams, Fisher House trustee; Kevin Mitchell, Mitchell Foundation; Roy Mitchell, Mitchell Foundation; Janet Murphy, VISN 23 Network Director; Tom McDonough, Bryan McDonough Military Heroes Foundation; David Coker, Fisher House President; Tammy Fisher, Fisher House trustee; Steven Kleinglass, Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director; Ken Fisher, Fisher House Chairman and CEO; Dr. Robert Petzel, VA Under Secretary for Health; Nancy Edelman, Fisher House trustee; Ranger Jones, Fisher House trustee; and Audrey Fisher, Fisher House trustee.



Medal of Honor recipient Michael Fitzmaurice and Marge Oslund, Fisher House manager



Memorial bench

Fisher House Dedication, June 9, 2011



Ken Fisher, Chairman and CEO of the Fisher House Foundation, told 400 people gathered for the June 9 dedication of the 20-room, \$6 million residence across from the medical center that he wishes the homes he builds around the country would never have to be used by military families.

“Unfortunately, there is a need for those homes,” said Fisher, the nephew of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, who began building homes for military families in 1990. Today, there are 54 “Fisher Houses” including 18 on VA

Tom McDonough tells story of his son **Bryan**, who died in Iraq in 2006

medical center campuses. Minneapolis now has two; the first one opened in 1995 with 10 suites.

“We thank the Fisher House Foundation and the Fisher Family for its generosity and support of our mission to help our Veterans from all wars across all decades,” said **Steven P. Kleinglass**, Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director. “We are certain that the rooms in this house will continue to be filled, as our military families join their wounded warrior loved ones through their medical treatment and rehabilitation.”

The new house consists of 20 suites, each with a private, handicapped-accessible bathroom and common areas that include a multi-cooking station kitchen, large communal dining and family rooms.

In a news story published in *Minneapolis Finance & Commerce*, builder **Tony Garczynski** said his team, based in San Diego, has now built 13 Fisher Houses. He said the Fisher Foundation is “very, very adamant that these not feel like a hotel or motel. They want people to feel like they are at home.”

During the dedication ceremony, **Tom McDonough** told the story of his son Bryan, who was killed in Iraq in 2006. Tom and his wife established the Bryan McDonough Military Heroes Foundation, which is named after their son. They have raised more than \$150,000 to help in the construction of the Minneapolis Fisher House to honor their son.



Also attending the ceremony was Medal of Honor recipient **Michael Fitzmaurice**, a Vietnam veteran, who was honored with a plaque that will be displayed in the house.

RESEARCH NEWS



Minneapolis Joins National Genome Research Effort

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System (VAHCS) has joined a new VA research initiative called the Million Veteran Program (MVP): A Partnership with Veterans. The goal for this facility is to enroll 20,000 Veterans in the next five years. The Principal Investigator in Minneapolis is **Scott Sponheim, PhD**.

MVP is a national, voluntary research initiative of VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) to better understand the effects that genes have on health and illness. The ultimate goal is improving Veterans' health care. MVP is a great opportunity for Veterans who receive care at VA Medical Centers across the country to participate in a research program that can transform healthcare not only for themselves, but also for future generations of Veterans and all Americans.

Understanding how different genes affect disease is an important part of advancing medical care. Information from MVP may help researchers answer questions such as "Why does a certain treatment work well for some Veterans but not for others?"; "Why are some Veterans at a greater risk for developing an illness?"; and "How can we prevent certain illnesses?" MVP offers a monumental opportunity for the VA to partner with those who have served our country, in an effort to transform VA health care and improve the lives of not only our Veterans, but all Americans.

For more information, visit www.research.va.gov/mvp or call 857/364-5759.

Minneapolis Launches Kidney Disease Telehealth Project



DR. ISHANI

Principal investigator **Areef Ishani, MD**, has been approved for a unique study of chronic kidney disease management using telehealth. The study objectives are: 1) To determine in veterans with moderate to severe chronic kidney disease (CKD) if a strategy of home telemonitoring and home management by a CKD team reduces the one-year risk for mortality, hospitalization, emergency room visits, or admission to a skilled nursing facility compared to usual care; and 2) To determine if the intervention reduces the overall costs from clinical care compared to the usual care. The two-year project will enroll 600 patients: 450 will get a device and remote management and 150 will get usual VA care (no device).

STAFF NEWSMAKERS



Twin Ports ESGR Honor

Mary Kolosky (L), manager of the Twin Ports VA Outpatient clinic, receives the "Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve" for her support of staff who serve in the Guard and Reserves. She was nominated by Thomas Garvey, LPN, (center). Terry Erickson of Employee Support of Guard and Reserve at right.



Social Work Interns and Social Work Field Instructors

On May 3, the 2010-2011 Social Work Interns presented their research projects to fellow social workers and interdisciplinary staff throughout the facility. Every year, MSW students from Augsburg, U of MN-Twin Cities and University of St. Thomas/St. Catherine's University receive their clinical training at the Minneapolis VA. Congratulations to this wonderful group of social work interns! And a special thanks to the field instructors for their mentorship of these interns. First row (left to right): Natalie Wasiluk, Molly Anderson, Jenna Schley, Jennifer O'Leary, Elyse Bendel; Second row (left to right): Kim Pavlik, Sarah Heuser, Brianna Loop, Amy Wood, Trudy Timmer, Amy Kamel and Jill Vinge; Third row (left to right): Mike Reckard, Simone Hogan and Gary Rodgers

Career Awards - Congratulations!

55 Years Frank Q. Nuttall	25 Years Sheila R. Boehm Barbara A. Dietzmann William R. Johnson David D. Kubik	15 Years Hughes E. Eneh Arnold R. Nordrum Sandra J. Robbs
35 Years Barbara A. Devereaux John E. Kasperek Peter B. Meier Charles J. Schlies Susan J. Tschida	20 Years Lynn R. Abelovitz Nancy F. Bergman Karen A. Doerfler Deann K. Genung Apostolos P. Georgopoulos Phillip F. Goettl Teresa A. Graham Thomas D. Hurwitz Jody L. Long Wendy M. McDonell Lonnie M. Mundt Jacqueline A. Rust Kathleen C. Sievwright	10 Years Sheila M. Doherty Christopher R. Erbes Pamela S. Gerber Eric A. Geurkink Arlene A. Hillestad Joseph G. Maidl, Jr. Peter T. Mitchell Anna M. Nelson Dennis L. Nowak Eric J. Olson Mary T. Reiter

DENTAL TEAM PULLS TOGETHER, SAVES A LIFE

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Donna began yelling for help.

There were many people nearby, most of them watching the unfolding events. "I was amazed that no one was doing anything," said Giselle. "If somebody didn't do something, he would go over the falls."

Fortunately, a couple of bicyclists heard the call for help. They stopped and joined the human chain. The group counted down . . . pulled together . . . and hauled the man to safety.

An ambulance and Minneapolis police arrived. The man was taken away to the hospital for treatment. "We never got his name; we don't know what happened to him," Giselle said.

After briefly reflecting on the dramatic events, the VA dental workers returned to their bike ride.

When asked her reaction, Giselle said, "It happened so quickly, I really didn't have time to think. I was told I jumped over a fence. I don't even recall that. My adrenaline was pumping so fast."

"It was really a team effort. We all worked together!"

VA Offers PTSD Consultation Service



VA clinicians and providers can speak directly with staff psychologists and physicians about:

- Treatment questions
- Clinical practice
- Resources for PTSD treatment
- Questions about improving care for PTSD patients
- Assessment questions
- Programmatic issues

VA Moves into the Blogosphere with VAntage Point

Visit www.blogs.va.gov and you'll find a refreshing new twist on the way VA and Veterans talk to each other. The site, known as "VAntage Point," features posts on a variety of topics—including VA research—and, like any blog site, encourages readers to dialogue with the bloggers and other commenters. VA's five-person social media team, four of whom are young OEF/OIF Veterans, sets the tone for a candid exchange.

Unused & Underused VA Buildings Targeted for Homeless

Minneapolis and St. Cloud medical centers have been selected as sites for the development of unused and underused buildings to house homeless Veterans. A recent strategic study, the Building Utilization Review and Repurposing (BURR) initiative, identified unused and underused buildings at existing VA property with the potential to develop new housing opportunities for homeless or at-risk Veterans and their families through public-private partnerships and VA's enhanced-use lease program.

VA and Easter Seals Open First Round of Caregiver Training

More than 500 Family Caregivers who applied for new services offered to Post 9/11 Veterans and their caregivers through a program of comprehensive assistance for Family Caregivers by V started their care-giving training June 9 and 10. The core training was developed in collaboration with Easter Seals. Since May 9, more than 1,000 have applied for services.

Muro Sworn In as Under Secretary for VA Memorial Affairs

Steve L. Muro, a Vietnam Veteran with leadership experience at every level within the VA National Cemetery Administration, has been sworn in as Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. Starting in 1979 as an automotive mechanic at VA's Los Angeles National Cemetery, Muro's life's work has been linked with VA's memorial affairs administration.

VA Physician-Researcher Honored by Medical Society

Dr. Michael J. Fine has received the 2011 John M. Eisenberg Award for Career Achievement in Research from the Society of General Internal Medicine. Fine directs the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP), based in Pennsylvania. He is also a professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

34th Annual Minneapolis VA Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble July 29 in Farmington



Cost: \$58; Entry Fee includes: Green Fees and Prize Fund (pay 3 teams in 3 flights), Mandatory Riding Carts and Pizza Party (courtesy of Hiway Federal Credit Union). Entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until we receive 36 complete paid team entries or **July 15**—whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following: Karen Rafter 612/467-3508; Sid Bell 612/629-7678; Joseph Chapman 612/467-2194; and Mike Vogt 612/467-2305

Dr. Crossley Named Chief of Staff – from Page 1

Dr. Crossley was the Chief of the Infectious Diseases Section at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center from 1973 – 1975. He was Chief of Infectious Diseases (1975 – 1996), Acting Chief of Medicine (1988 – 1990), and Chief of Medicine (1990 – 1996), at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center in St. Paul, MN, a major teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Minnesota. Since 1996, Dr. Crossley has been Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Minneapolis VAHCS, and since January 2011 he has also been Acting Chief of Staff.

Dr. Crossley has a long-standing relationship with the University of Minnesota Medical School where he has served on the Dean's Committee as an active member since 1996. He has been a member or co-chair of the Admissions Committee for the past seven years. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. Crossley is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. He received a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from the University of Minnesota in 2000.

As Chief of Staff, Dr. Crossley's primary responsibilities will focus on providing operational oversight of three major missions: patient care, education and research.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Crossley to this important new role.

Steven P. Kleinglass
Director, Minneapolis VA Health Care System